

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5-6, 8, 10-11, 13-15, 17, 20-23, 25-29, and 31-36 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 10, 14, 20, 26, and 31-36 have been amended. Applicants believe that this Amendment does not add new matter. In view of the foregoing Amendment and following Remarks, allowance of all the pending claims is requested.

By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants have amended and/or cancelled various claims solely for purposes of expediting prosecution of this Application. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of any claim pending prior to the foregoing Amendment, or any other subject matter supported by the Specification, in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 10-11, 13, 20-23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,148,875 to Rosenberg *et al.* ("Rosenberg") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0033795 by Shahoian *et al.* ("Shahoian"). The Examiner has rejected claims 31-36 as allegedly unpatentable over Rosenberg in view of Shahoian and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0177471 by Kaaresoja *et al.* ("Kaaresoja"). Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the reason that the references relied upon by the Examiner do not teach or suggest all the features of the claimed invention prior to the foregoing Amendment. Nonetheless, solely to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended the claims to clarify various features of the claimed invention. None of the references relied upon by the Examiner teach or suggest all the features of the claims as amended.

Claims 1, 10, and 20

Claim 1 as amended recites, among other things: "the reminder event is associated with an activity that takes place at a particular time... outputting a control

signal...***based on the particular time*** of the reminder event, thereby imparting the first haptic effect substantially to the housing rather than the user interface member ***according to the particular time.*** In other words, claim 1 recites a haptic effect according to a time that an activity associated with the reminder event takes place. Claims 1, 10, and 20 have been amended to recite similar features.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Rosenberg discloses that “the priority of an event can dictate the type of force sensation.” *Office Action* at page 3. However, even if this is true, a reminder event based on a priority of an event does not teach or suggest a reminder event based on a time of an activity as claimed. In other words, different haptic effects for different priorities of events does not teach or suggest different haptic effects for different times in which different activities take place as claimed. For example, merely because an activity takes place at an earlier time does not indicate the activity is higher in priority than another activity later in time (or vice versa). Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion in Rosenberg for a haptic effect based on a time that an activity takes place as claimed. None of the remaining references relied upon by the Examiner cure at least this deficiency of Rosenberg. For at least these reasons, the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 20 is improper and must be withdrawn. Claims 2, 11, 13, 21-23, and 25 depend from and add features to one of claims 1, 10, and 20. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claims 1, 10, and 20, the rejection of these dependent claims is likewise improper and must be withdrawn.

Claims 31-36

Claim 31 recites: “the control signal is configured to cause the actuator to output a second haptic effect” and “at least a portion of the first haptic effect and the second haptic effect are output ***at a same time*** to convey the reminder event.” Claims 32-36 recite similar features. Thus, the claims clearly recite a control signal configured to cause first and second haptic effects at the same time. In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that “[o]ne skilled in the art would understand that a vibration of different frequencies is a haptic effect with a ***plurality of different haptic effects in***

series wherein one part of the vibration comprises portions of the plurality of haptic effects due to resonance of a haptic effect within the device.” *Office Action* at page 10. Even if a vibration of different frequencies is a haptic effect with different haptic effects in series, this does not teach or suggest first and second haptic effects **at the same time** as claimed. Furthermore, even if resonance of a haptic device causes another haptic effect, this does not teach or suggest a control signal configured to cause the actuator to output the first and second haptic effects as claimed. Thus, a haptic effect having different frequencies over time and a resonance of a haptic device does not teach or suggest the first and second haptic effects output at the same time as claimed.

The Examiner further alleges that Kaaresoja at Fig. 3 and paragraph 0034 discloses “turning on and off actuators to create a vibration pattern composed of multiple haptic effects.” *Office Action* at page 10. However, turning on and off actuators does not disclose a control signal that causes first and second haptic effects at the same time as claimed. In fact, turning on and off the actuators of Kaaresoja to create the vibration pattern **teaches away** from a control signal that causes a first and second haptic effect at the same time as claimed. Turning on and off the actuators of Kaaresoja results in distinct effects that are separated by on and off cycles. However, as claimed, first and second haptic effects are output **at the same time**, which may cause a separate effect different from the combined first and second haptic effects.

Furthermore, as discussed above, a vibration pattern having multiple haptic effects does not disclose first and second haptic effects output **at the same time** as claimed. Again, merely having different effects within a vibration does not teach or suggest a control signal configured to cause first and second haptic effects at the same time.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the Examiner has failed to articulate a reasoned rationale that a combination of Rosenberg, Shahoian, and Kaaresoja teaches or suggests the features of claims 31-36. As such, the rejection of these claims is improper and must be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 5-6, 8, 14-15, 17, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Rosenberg. Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the reason that Rosenberg does not disclose all the features of the claimed invention prior to the foregoing Amendment. Nonetheless, solely to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended the claims to clarify various features of the claimed invention. Rosenberg does not disclose all the features of the claims as amended.

For example, claim 5 recites, among other things: “a haptic code programmed to cause the actuator to output at a prescribed time after receiving the input signal a first haptic effect to the housing based on the type of the status event, wherein the ***prescribed time is programmed by the haptic code.***” Claims 14 and 26 have been amended to recite similar features. In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Rosenberg at col. 13, lines 30-48 discloses “using a vibration which occurs at a prescribed time after receiving an input processed by a controller wherein the controller send out haptic code programmed to output a haptic effect at a prescribed time.” *Office Action* at page 11. However, even if the haptic effect of Rosenberg is output at a prescribed time (such as after a computer “thinking is over” – see Rosenberg at col. 13, lines 46-48), Rosenberg does not disclose that the prescribed time is ***programmed by the haptic code.*** For example, merely sending a control signal to initiate a haptic code ***after*** the computer is finished “thinking” does not disclose sending a haptic code that programs the prescribed time as claimed. For at least the foregoing reasons, Rosenberg does not disclose all the features of claims 5, 14, and 26 as amended. As such, the rejection of these claims is improper and must be withdrawn. Claims 6, 8, 15, 17, and 27-29 depend from and add features to one of claims 5, 14, and 26. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claims 5, 14, and 25, the rejection of these dependent claims are likewise improper and must be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

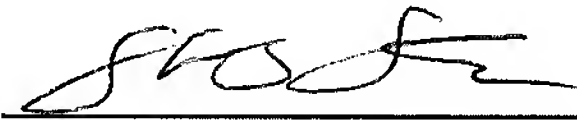
Having addressed each of the foregoing objections and rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the Application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Date: March 31, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Hean L. Koo
Registration No. 61,214

Customer No. 26158

WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE, PLLC
P.O. Box 7037
Atlanta, GA 30357-0037
Main: 404-872-7000
Direct Dial: 703-394-2274
Fax: 404-888-7490